

PRESS RELEASE

Winter Texans clean 2.7 tons of trash off South Padre beaches

Beach combers find everything from cigarette butts and beer cans to avionics

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AUSTIN — Winter Texans from as far away as Canada showed up Friday to clean 5,400 pounds of trash - more than 2.7 tons - off South Padre Island beaches at the Texas General Land Office's Adopt-A-Beach Winter Texan Cleanup.

A total of 135 volunteers from Michigan, Minnesota, Iowa, Wisconsin joined students from San Juan High School to clean up 5 miles of beach at Edwin Atwood Park. Odd items found included electronics from Lockheed Martin, a \$20 bill, a door knob and a plastic XLVII Super Bowl Ring.

Adopt-A-Beach Winter Cleanup sponsors included Schlitterbahn Beach Resort, which provided volunteers with coffee, orange juice and hot chocolate and H-E-B, which provided bottled water and donuts.

The Texas General Land Office Adopt-A-Beach program is one of the most successful volunteer efforts in the nation. The Winter Texan cleanup is one of three all-volunteer seasonal cleanups coordinated by the Adopt-A-Beach program, and is held in cooperation with Cameron County Parks. The goal of General Land Office's Adopt-A-Beach program is to not only remove trash from Texas beaches and waterways but to also increase public awareness of the problems of marine debris and beach litter.

As volunteers clean up beaches they record data to learn more about the causes of marine debris and to help mitigate pollution along Texas' 367 miles of coastline. Since 1986, more than 440,000 volunteers have removed more than 8,400 tons of trash from the Texas coast. That's enough to fill up a line of dump trucks more than 90 miles long.

For additional information on the Winter Texan Beach Cleanup and the Adopt-A-Beach program, or to participate in the next cleanup visit www.texasadoptabeach.org. You may also call the Texas General Land Office toll free at 1-877-TXCOAST.

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